DRAFT Data Assessment Team (DAT) Conference Call Notes
4/18/13 at 11:00 a.m.

Participants: Lucinda Shih (CCWD), Geir Aasen (DFW), Edmund Yu, Elaine Jeu and Wenli Yin (DWR), Elizabeth Leeper (KMTG on behalf of SLDMWA), Craig Anderson, Jon Speegle and Leigh Bartoo (FWS), Owen Lu and RG Fernando (MWD), Barb Byrne (NMFS), Tom Boardman (SLDMWA), Eleanor Bartolomeo (SWRCB)

Sacramento River Salmonid Monitoring

Preliminary Rotary Screw Trap (RST) Report			
Species*	**FWS Red Bluff Diversion Dam RST (Estimated Passage)**	**DFW Tisdale Weir RST (Catch)**	**DFW Knights Landing RST (Catch)**
Date	**No new biweekly data.**	**4/11/13 to 4/16/13**	**Monitoring discontinued since 12/15/12.**
CHNF		3	
CHNLF			
CHNW			
CHNS		7	
Ad-Clipped CHN			
SH			
Ad-Clipped SH			
*Chinook race based on length (Frank Fisher model); CHNF=Fall run, CHNLF=Late-fall run, CHNW=Winter run, CHNS= Spring run, SH = Steelhead. Species are unmarked unless noted as adipose-fin clipped (ad-clipped). Data subject to revision.			

Graphical summaries of the monitoring data collected at the Sacramento River and at other locations can be found at http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/calfed/calfedmonitoring.cfm. In addition, the biweekly passage reports of juvenile salmonids sampled at the Red Bluff Diversion Dam are available at http://www.fws.gov/redbluff/rbdd_biweekly.aspx.

Hatchery Release Update

Coleman National Fish Hatchery is planning to release approximately 5.6 million of the 2012 brood year fall-run Chinook salmon into Battle Creek on 4/24. Of the 5.6 million released, about 25% will be adipose fin clipped and coded-wire tagged. Lastly, this release group has an estimated average fork length of about 75 mm and is the second and last release of the 2012 brood year fall-run Chinook salmon from the Coleman National Fish Hatchery.

Delta Fish Monitoring

Preliminary FWS Trawl and Seine Catch Report from 4/7/13 to 4/13/13				
Species*	**Beach Seines**	**Mossdale Trawl****	**Sacramento Trawl**	**Chipps Island Trawl**
CHNF	65		25	6
CHNLF				
CHNW				10
CHNS	9		52	69
Ad-Clipped CHN			23	2
SH			1	42
Ad-Clipped SH	3			
DSM	1 (Sandy Beach, 78 mm with egg)			
LFS				1 (84 mm, no expression)
SPLT			2	8
*Chinook race based on length (Frank Fisher model); CHNF=Fall run, CHNLF=Late-fall run, CHNW=Winter run, CHNS= Spring run, SH = Steelhead, DSM=Delta smelt, LFS=Longfin smelt, SPLT = Splittail. Species are unmarked unless noted as adipose-fin clipped (ad-clipped). Data subject to revision.				

** From April to June, DFW (Region 4) conducts the Mossdale trawl monitoring and not FWS. Based on preliminary data, DFW caught 400 non-clipped Chinook salmon with an average fork length of 74 mm at the Mossdale trawl from 4/7 to 4/13. In addition, DFW caught two ad-clipped steelhead with no fork lengths taken, and one non-clipped steelhead with a fork length of 225 mm.

Lastly, DFW conducted its first trawl efficiency test in 2013 on 4/12. DFW released 5,000 marked juvenile Chinook salmon with the upper caudal fin dyed purple. As of 4/17, Chinook salmon marked with a purple upper caudal fin have been salvaged at the Delta fish facilities and it is possible that the Chinook salmon salvaged at the Delta fish facilities were from the Mossdale trawl efficiency test.

Information about the Delta fish monitoring data from FWS can also be found at http://www.fws.gov/stockton/jfmp/.

Salvage Monitoring

Preliminary DFW Salvage Report for Salmonids from 4/8/13 to 4/14/13								
	Central Valley Project (CVP)				State Water Project (SWP)			
Species	Adipose-Fin Clipped (Ad-Clipped)		Non-Adipose Fin Clipped (Non-Clipped)		Adipose-Fin Clipped (Ad-Clipped)		Non-Adipose Fin Clipped (Non-Clipped)	
	Salvage	Loss	Salvage	Loss	Salvage	Loss	Salvage	Loss
CHNF							62	264
Total to Date	93	62	48	33	322	1,460	122	520
CHNLF								
Total to Date	165	118	28	18	616	2,780	57	260
CHNW					2	9		
Total to Date	67	53	129	98	116	522	142	633
CHNS							74	326
Total to Date			80	56			202	865
CHNU								
Total to Date			8	5				
SH					86	372	52	225
Total to Date	297	202	221	150	320	1,386	313	1,353

Notes:
-Chinook race based on length (Delta model); CHNF=Fall run, CHNLF=Late-fall run, CHNW=Winter run, CHNS= Spring run, CHNU= Unknown race (Chinook greater than the length-at-date criteria), SH = Steelhead.
-Salvage and loss estimates are rounded to the nearest whole fish.
-Documentation on how to calculate salvage and Chinook loss can be found at ftp://ftp.delta.dfg.ca.gov/salvage/Salmon%20Loss%20Estimation/.
-Steelhead loss: SWP steelhead loss = salvage × 4.33 and CVP steelhead loss = salvage × 0.68.
-Total to date is the total since 10/1/12 (the start of water year 2013).
-Data subject to revision.

Preliminary DFW Salvage Report for Smelt and Other Species from 4/8/13 to 4/14/13				
	CVP		SWP	
Species	Salvage	Total to Date	Salvage	Total to Date
DSM*		148		112
LFS**		111		8
SPLT		21	16	100
GST				
WST		4		6

Notes:
-DSM=Delta smelt, LFS=Longfin smelt, SPLT = Splittail, GST=Green sturgeon, WST=White sturgeon.
-Salvage estimates are rounded to the nearest whole fish.
-Total to date is the total since 10/1/12 (the start of water year 2013).
-Data subject to revision.

*Delta smelt < 20 mm in fork length were reported in larval fish samples at the SWP fish facility during the period from 1500 hours on 4/4 to 0900 hours on 4/9.

**Longfin smelt < 20 mm in fork length were reported in larval fish samples at the SWP fish facility during the period from 1500 hours on 4/4 to 0900 hours on 4/9.

Reclamation resumed pumping and salvage at 0700 hours on 4/15. Salvage information is posted on the salvage FTP site (ftp://ftp.dfg.ca.gov/salvage/). If you cannot access the FTP site, you can also go to http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/apps/salvage/Default.aspx and click on "Salvage FTP Site."

Smelt Monitoring

No new data to report since laboratory processing has been delayed due to DFW's move into a new office. All data up to this point are available online at http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/data/.

20-mm Survey #4 begins on 4/22. For more information about the 20-mm Survey, please visit the DFW website: http://dfg.ca.gov/delta/projects.asp?ProjectID=20mm.

Spring Kodiak Trawl #5 begins on 4/29. For more information about the Spring Kodiak Trawl, please visit the DFW website: http://dfg.ca.gov/delta/projects.asp?ProjectID=SKT.

Smelt Working Group

The Smelt Working Group met this past Monday (4/15) and the meeting summary found in the meeting notes and presented to DAT is below:

> The Working Group agreed that given their present distribution, current salvage, and Delta conditions, risk of entrainment of delta smelt remains low and therefore, the Working Group recommends that no change in operations is necessary to adequately protect delta smelt from entrainment. The Working Group also agreed that given their present distribution, existing constraining conditions were sufficient to protect longfin smelt. The Working Group will continue to monitor smelt salvage, adult and larval smelt survey data, and Delta hydrological conditions and will reconvene April 22, 2013, at 10 am.

Based on this week's recommendation, the FWS determination from 3/12 is still in place, which states that the 14-day average Old and Middle River (OMR) flow be no more negative than -5,000 cfs and the 5-day average OMR flow be no more negative than -6,250 cfs for the protection of delta smelt.

The Smelt Working Group notes and FWS determinations are posted at http://www.fws.gov/sfbaydelta/cvp-swp/smelt_working_group.cfm.

Delta Operations for Salmonids and Sturgeon (DOSS) Working Group

DOSS met this past Tuesday and provided WOMT and NMFS with an update on the status of implementing the current RPAs that are in place. For NMFS RPA Action IV.2.3 (OMR flow management), the second stage action response for exceeding the second stage steelhead trigger on 4/9 lasted between 4/10 and 4/14, but OMR flow could not be relaxed to -5,000 cfs since the steelhead loss from the last 3-days of the minimum 5-day action response was not below the first stage trigger. Therefore, DWR and Reclamation are currently implementing the first stage action response of NMFS RPA Action IV.2.3, which requires OMR flow to be no more negative than -3,500 cfs until there are 3 consecutive days where no NMFS RPA Action IV.2.3 trigger is exceeded. However, OMR flow is currently not controlling operations due to NMFS RPA Action IV.2.1 (San Joaquin River inflow to export (I:E) ratio) and a SWP/CVP export limit in D-1641.

NMFS RPA Action IV.2.1 requires that the projects operate to a San Joaquin River at Vernalis inflow to a combined SWP/CVP export ratio on a 14-day average based on water year type from April 1 to May 31, while the SWP/CVP export limit in D-1641 requires exports to be 100% of the Vernalis inflow based on a 3-day average from April 15 to May 15. If these requirements cannot be met for health and safety reasons, then projects can export 1,500 cfs. The current San Joaquin Valley water year type is critical;

therefore, the required I:E ratio for NMFS RPA Action IV.2.1 is 1:1 and is equivalent to the D-1641 requirement. The inflow at Vernalis just went above 1,500 cfs, so SWP/CVP exports should no longer need to operate to the health and safety export level.

After the DOSS update, there was a question on whether there will be a long delay with an increase of exports even if there is an increase in Vernalis inflow since NMFS RPA Action IV.2.1 is based on a 14-day average. In response, Barb Byrne (NMFS) mentioned that there should not be a long delay since operating to a health and safety export level of 1,500 cfs is considered equivalent to operating to the required I:E ratio. However, there could be a one-day delay since the I:E ratio is based on the Vernalis inflow from the previous day.

DOSS notes are posted at http://www.swr.noaa.gov/ocap/doss.htm.

Operations

Preliminary Summary for 4/18/13			
SWP		**CVP**	
Clifton Court Inflow (cfs)	700	Jones Pumping Plant (cfs)	800
SWP San Luis Reservoir Share (TAF) as of Midnight	477	CVP San Luis Reservoir Share (TAF) as of Midnight	740
San Luis Reservoir Total (TAF) as of Midnight	1,217	American – Nimbus Reservoir Releases (cfs)	1,250
Feather – Oroville Reservoir Releases (cfs)	1,500	Sacramento – Keswick Reservoir Releases (cfs)	6,000*
DELTA OPERATIONS			
Outflow (cfs)	~10,300	14-day Average OMR Flow as of 4/17/13 (cfs)	-186
X2 (km)	68	5-day Average OMR Flow as of 4/17/13(cfs)	-161
E/I (%)	8.2 (14-day average)		

*Keswick releases are increasing due to Wilkins Slough.

Vernalis Inflow: As of 4/17, Vernalis inflow is at 1,615 cfs. In the next few days, inflow at Vernalis is expected to increase to around 2,500 cfs. By 4/25, Vernalis inflow is expected to be at around 3,500 cfs. These flows are inclusive to the Oakdale Irrigation District.

In addition, Goodwin releases will increase to 3,000 cfs on 4/22 and will last until 5/10. The travel time from the Stanislaus River below Goodwin Dam to Vernalis is about two days.

A summary of daily operations can also be viewed at http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/docs/delta/deltaops.pdf.

Next Conference Call: The CALFED Ops meeting has been canceled next week. Because of this, DAT will be convening next week for a conference call on 4/25 at 11:00 a.m. An e-mail update will be sent out before the conference call if an agency representative cannot call in.